

SHS



BAND

HANDBOOK

“Family, Commitment, Perseverance, Excellence”

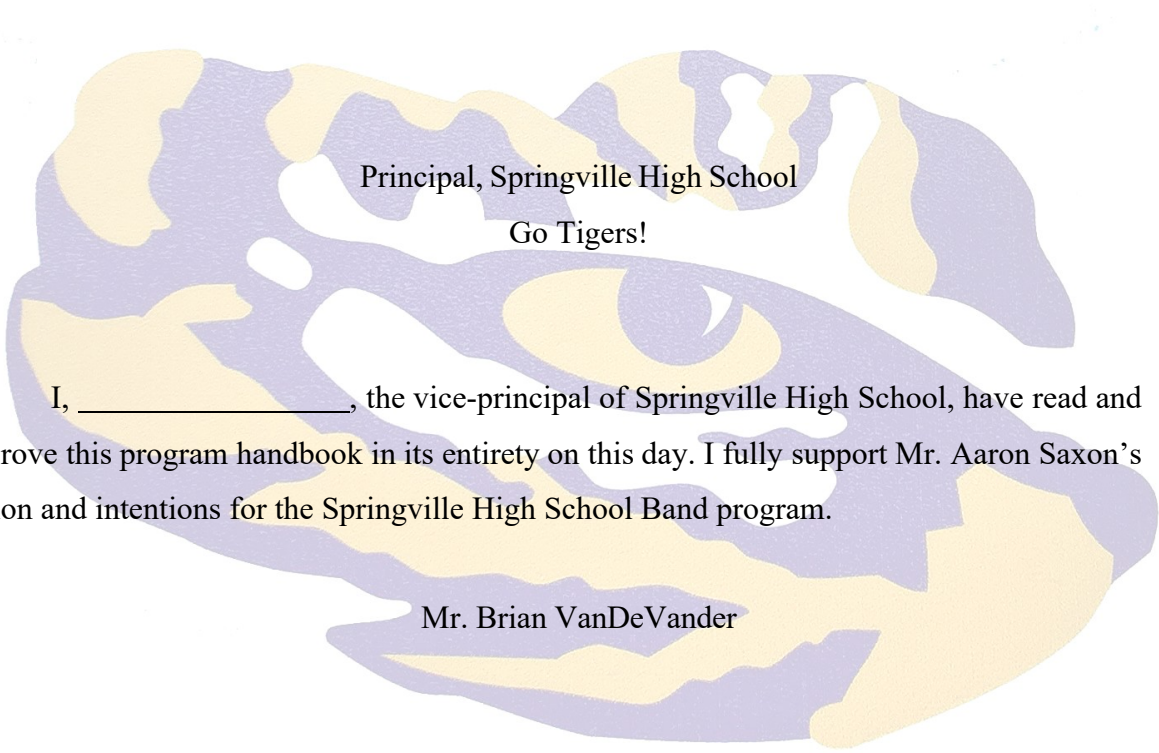
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Administration Approvals & Signature

I, _____, the principal of Springville High School, have read and approve this program handbook in its entirety on this day, _____. I fully support Mr. Saxon’s vision and intentions for the Springville High School Bands programs.

Dr. Gregory Moore



Principal, Springville High School
Go Tigers!

I, _____, the vice-principal of Springville High School, have read and approve this program handbook in its entirety on this day. I fully support Mr. Aaron Saxon’s vision and intentions for the Springville High School Band program.

Mr. Brian VanDeVander

Vice-Principal, Springville High School
Go Tigers!

Springville High School Bands

STAFF INFORMATION

“Family, Commitment, Perseverance, Excellence”

Band Director

Mr. J Aaron Saxon

Email: john.saxon@sccboe.org

Band room phone: 205-467-7339

Color Guard Sponsor

Mrs. Trisha Forsythe

Danceline Sponsor

Ms. Kim Riker

Colorguard Caption Head

Danceline Caption Head

Mrs. Madison Ward

Percussion Instructor

Mr. Fleck Sherman

Director's Letter

Welcome to The Mighty Band from Tiger Land!

Successful band programs constantly challenge their current level of success, aspiring to be better. They constantly challenge their comfort to achieve more because that is what it means to be a healthy, successful band program with great culture. Those challenges are bringing in clinicians, holding additional sectionals or music camps led by outside professionals, and putting an emphasis on every part of a band program; Concert Bands, Jazz Bands, Percussion, and Marching Band. The marching band can only get stronger if the colorguard, danceline, jazz band, percussion ensemble, & concert band gets stronger. It's a symbiotic relationship that if one doesn't get the fuel it needs, the other does not reach its full potential. We should embrace this, because that's what it means to have a healthy, successful band program.

Vision is a team sport. Our students deserve to have a healthy band program with a great culture. That can only be achieved if we work in harmony together. This might require more commitment than what was realized, but commitment builds character and character produces great humans.

Please read the contents of this handbook in its entirety. There is a student-parent contract found at the back of this handout. Please sign and return the last page. My contact information can be found on the previous page. The most efficient way to contact me is via email. Please allow me up to 48 hours to reply to any and all inquiries. I can hardly contain my excitement for the upcoming musical year. I look forward to serving as YOUR band director and growing together! Go Tigers!

Mr. Saxon
Director of Bands
Springville High School

The Springville Tiger Vision

“Every Student Prepared”

The Tiger Band Mission Statement

“To serve others at the highest level in order to foster impactful experiences through music.”

Tiger Band Goals

Be a **Family**.
Be **Committed**.
Grow every day.
Be the **best version** of ourselves.
HAVE FUN!

Through these goals, we will achieve **EXCELLENCE** and create **MEMORIES!**

Classroom Rules

1. Be Involved!
2. Always give your best effort.
3. Be respectful.
4. Always aim for excellence.

Course Descriptions

“Mighty Band from Tiger Land” Marching Band

The Springville High School Marching Tiger Band is the official marching band of Springville High School. This family takes extensive commitment and dedication in order to achieve excellence. This band meets for sectionals over the summer while everyone else is at home, attends band camp for 3 weeks just prior to the beginning of the school year, and holds after-school rehearsals 3 days per week. This band is a **family** who is **committed** to each other. Through that **commitment**, we **persevere** together to achieve **excellence**.

Concert Band

The Springville High School Wind Ensemble is the premiere wind band performing ensemble at Springville High School. This ensemble meets daily during school hours and for additional sectionals and rehearsals outside of the school day. This ensemble performs a variety of music and at different times throughout the school year, including the Alabama State Music Performance Assessment, and dependent on invitations and opportunities.

SHS Jazz Band

The Springville High School Jazz Band is the premiere jazz band at Springville High School. The goal of this ensemble is to present a variety of musical literature based in the Jazz medium. This ensemble meets every school day and plays a variety of Jazz and blues while performing at numerous venues throughout the year, including the annual SHS Pancake fundraiser.

Percussion Ensemble

The Springville High School Percussion Ensemble is an ensemble that explores and performs a variety of percussion music using all types of percussion instruments. The goal of this ensemble is to expose the percussion students to a variety of musical styles while furthering their musical abilities. This ensemble meets weekly after school and has numerous performances throughout the year. It is open to students ranging from 7th grade to 12th grade.

Attendance, Policies, Eligibility, Procedures, & Rules

Marching Band Attendance Policy

Students are required to be at all camps, rehearsals, and performances as outlined by the director/sponsors. Absences are defined as excused and unexcused.

- If a student misses two (2) practices, excused, that student will not be permitted to perform that week (they may perform in the stands).
- If a student misses one (1) practice, excused, the week of performance, it will be at the director's discretion whether or not they will perform. If too much important material was missed with no time to make it up, the student may not perform that week. Pass offs may be required in order to perform.
- Injury does not exclude anyone from practice. Anyone who is injured must still attend practice and watch the rehearsal to keep up with any material they are missing.

! If a student does miss practice due to a physical injury or sickness, a doctor's or physician's note explaining the injury/sickness and necessary restrictions/precautions is required.

Concert Band Attendance Policy

Students are required to be at all rehearsals, additional sectionals, performances, and the annual Symphonic Camp held during in the Spring semester. Absences are defined as excused and unexcused.

- Each unexcused absence from rehearsal/sectionals will result in a demerit. Two demerits will result in the student receiving detention.
- If a student misses a performance, unexcused, they will receive a zero and will not be allowed to make up the grade.
- If a student misses a performance, excused, the make-up assignment will be the student performing their entire concert music by themselves in class.
- A student is allowed to miss 1 rehearsal or sectional with an excused absence.

Excused absences:

Relative's death

Doctor's note

Commitment with another school-sanctioned program

Parent's note (2 max per 9 weeks, 3 max per semester)

Unexcused absences:

Unexcused absences are defined as the student providing no communication with the director/sponsors prior to the event and the director/sponsors having no knowledge of the student's whereabouts. Timely communication with the director is paramount. Five minutes before does not suffice. If a student receives an unexcused absence, they will be placed on non-performance status.

**Non-performance status: student is not allowed to perform in the next performance, resulting in a zero for that performance.

Eligibility

Being a member of the Springville Band Program comes with the expectation of holding oneself to a higher standard than the rest of Springville High School.

- **Academic Eligibility:** Students within the Springville Band Program are expected to maintain a 2.75 GPA to remain in eligible status. Remediation and extra help must be sought by student if issues arise.
- **Substance Abuse:** Students within the Program are expected to remain drug and alcohol free during all camps, rehearsals, performances, and trips. There is a “zero-tolerance” policy within the Springville Band Program, and as such, failure to adhere to this policy will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
 - ! If a student violates this policy on a band trip, the student will immediately be sent home after consultation with the parents/guardians has happened.
- **Rules and regulations of Springville Schools & St. Clair County Schools:** Along with all policies stated here within, the student is expected to adhere to and follow the rules and regulations established by Springville Schools and St. Clair County Schools. Any violations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

GRADING POLICY

Grading throughout the semester(s) is a combination of participation, performance ability, and playing assignments.

PASS OFFS

Students are expected to come to band camp having practiced their marching band music over summer. Students will play their music for their section leaders, by memory, each week to determine their current performance ability. There is no grade attached and the student’s eligibility in band is not at-stake. The students are expected to pass-off the first song by week 1, the first & second song by week 2, and the entire show by the end of Camp.

****Students who are unable to pass off any portion of the show by the end of Camp will not be allowed to perform (including upcoming football games) until they are able to do so.***

Uniforms

Instrumentalist

Uniforms will be sized during Band Camp. None of the uniform or its pieces will leave the band room under any circumstance. Students will put the uniform on and take it off prior to & after performances. Underneath the band uniform, students will wear the current marching show t-shirt and gym shorts. No exceptions.

- Marching shoes (\$40) → sized by our uniform team and ordered during band camp.

Color Guard

Uniforms have already been sized and ordered. Normally done in the Spring.

Dance Line

Uniforms have already been sized and ordered. Normally done in the Spring. Boots are sold by Mrs. Rose. Mrs. Andrews can be consulted for boots.

Wind Ensemble & Concert Band Uniforms

Men - termed "Concert Black"

Black dress slacks, black button up shirt with black undershirt, black belt, black socks, black dress shoes.

Women - termed "concert black"

Black dress slacks or black dress that passes beyond the knee with a black shirt or blouse. Black leggings are acceptable only underneath a dress that passes below the knee. Black shoes. Hair bows, ties, etc. must all be black in color. Minimal jewelry.

Program Costs & Fees

We highly recommend all fees be paid electronically through Venmo. The username to pay in Venmo is @springville-bands. Please look for the tiger head logo. **All fees are due by the end of Band Camp Preview Performance day.**

Band fees are dependent on:

- if the student is in high school vs. middle school,
- participating in marching band vs. wind ensemble/concert band or both,
- if the student needs to rent a school-owned instrument or supply their own,
- Color Guard (Auxiliary)
- Danceline (Auxiliary)

Band fee breakdown:

High School Band Student

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Fair Share Fee | \$150 |
| Instrument Rental Fee* | \$100 |
| Uniform Rental Fee | \$100 |
| Technology Fee | \$20 |
| Band Camp Fee | \$100 |
| Class Fee | \$40 |
| Uniform Cleaning Fee | \$25 |

Total when renting an instrument: \$535
Total when NOT renting: \$435

Auxiliary Student

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Fair Share Fee | \$150 |
| Band Camp Fee | \$100 |
| Equipment Fee | \$100 |
| Class Fee* | \$20/\$40 |
| Instrument Rental Fee** | \$100 |

*Class fee is \$20/semester of Band taken.
 **Concert band rental instrument ONLY.

Total for marching band ONLY: \$370
Total for marching band + concert band: \$390
Total for MB + CB + renting an instrument: \$490

8th Grade March Up

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Fair Share Fee | \$150 |
| Band Camp Fee | \$100 |
| Uniform Rental Fee | \$100 |
| Uniform Cleaning Fee | \$25 |
| Instrument Rental Fee* | \$100 |
| Technology Fee | \$20 |

*Total when renting an instrument: \$495
 Total when not renting an instrument: \$395

Students who do not pay their fee by the deadline will still be able to participate in rehearsals and practices, but will not be able to travel or perform.

Chair Placements

At the beginning and end of each Spring Semester, chair placement auditions will be conducted. It is a single audition conducted by the band director in person with the player being graded by the rubric provided below. The end of Spring Audition will be for the forthcoming school year. The student must audition using an excerpt from the All-State prepared repertoire. The chair placement result is based on a combination of audition score and playing assignments from the previous semester.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Tone | Rich, resonant, consistent sound | Pleasing, but some minor issues. | Somewhat small, pinched sound. Keep working. | Very small, tight, pinched tone. |
| Rhythmic Accuracy | Rhythms are correct with undoubted confidence. | Mostly correct rhythms, with a couple mistakes. | Notable mistakes present with some correct. | Evident student has not sought help or practiced. |
| Intonation | Playing in the center of every note. Always in tune. | Mostly in-tune. Some minor pitch issues. | Pitch issues are present, but student corrects them eventually. | No knowledge of intonation. |
| Stylistic Accuracy | Executed as if telling a story! | Mostly correct, with some missed styles. | General stylistic intent is present, but some prevalent misses. | Mostly or all missed. Played one style the whole time. |

Student Leadership

Students who are awarded leadership roles within the band are expected to be individuals who go above and beyond what is required. They are individuals who stand out among their peers as being influential, professional, disciplined, and expect excellence. These students are the extended arms and mouths of the band director and MUST be given the same respect that is given to the band director.

Responsibilities/Expectations

Drum Major: The drum major is the most visible leader in the band program. Drum majors are responsible for conducting indoor/outdoor music and marching rehearsals as well as all Marching Band performances. They will also assist in sectional and small ensemble rehearsals as well as additional general duties around the band room and band office. Drum majors are expected to set the highest example.

Band President: The Band President is one of the highest leadership positions in our Band. The Band President is someone who values relationships within our Family above all else. They are an individual who is well-connected within the band and are emotionally intelligent, consistently aiming to solve problems that arise. The Band President is someone who strives to ensure there is minimal drama, maximum fun, and is someone who genuinely looks out for their peers because they truly care about their peer's experience in our Band Family.

Additional duties include holding various social gatherings for band members, providing Mr. Saxon insight on the band morale, and being the head of the planning committee for the annual Band Banquet.

Captains: Captains are responsible for conducting and administering sectional and small ensemble rehearsals. They are expected to be subject-matter experts for their peers in all aspects of band: music, marching, and technique. They are also responsible for ensuring productive, smooth rehearsals by providing aid and guidance to the peers within their responsibility. They are expected to set the example for others to follow, while also delivering attendance to the band director. They will ensure that music has been passed out to individual section leaders from the librarians.

Quartermasters: Quartermasters are the equipment specialists. They are responsible for all indoor and outdoor equipment and ensuring it is set up for rehearsal each day. They are responsible for painting the yardlines and hashes on the practice field as well as loading and unloading all equipment from the equipment truck for performances.

Student Awards

Annual Scholarships

At the culmination of the school year, four scholarships are presented to students who went above and beyond for their peers and the band program.

REQUIREMENTS

- For scholarship awards, a 1-2 page paper must be submitted explaining the student's personal achievements, their favorite band memory, why they believe band has better-prepared them for life, and supporting evidence on why the student should win the scholarship and/or award.
 - An interview of the finalists will be conducted by a committee.

David Curren Honorary Award - \$1000 scholarship

Presented by the Price family in honor of Adam Price. Named the David Curren honorary award because of Mr. Curren's importance in Adam Price's life and his support during the time of the Price's loss. Beyond that, the awardee must have and maintain a 3.75 GPA throughout all of their classes and served in a leadership role within the band(s).

Adam Price Memorial Award - \$1,000

This award was created in memory of Adam Price, who loved band and died unexpectedly in his teens. The family selects the award winner.

Frank Buckner Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

A scholarship presented by the Springville High School Band Boosters in memory of Frank Buckner, a long time business owner who was instrumental in the formation of the Springville Band Program in the late 1970s. All four of Mr. Buckner's children were in band and he was the Booster President for years. This award was created in memory of him after his passing in 2017.

Band Director Scholarship - \$1,000

A Booster-funded scholarship chosen by the Band Director with assistance from the band staff and the Band Booster Executive Board.

Annual Band Awards

Strongest Technical Ability by Section

An award given to the section who displayed the strongest musical ability along with demonstrating the characteristics of being in the Tiger Band.

Most Improved Section

An award given to the most improved section of the band throughout an entire year.

Most Outstanding Senior

Voted on by the student body, this award is presented to the Senior Band Member that exemplifies all of the band's best qualities, takes the most pride in the band's goal and maintains a high personal standard of excellence throughout everything they do.

Most Outstanding Rookie

Voted on by the student body, this award is presented to the Rookie Band Member that exemplifies a great attitude, displays consistent dedication, takes the most pride in the band's goal and maintains a high personal standard of excellence throughout everything they do.

Most Spirit and Pride by Section

Voted on by the student body, this award is given to the section within the band that exemplifies tremendous pride in the band. They are consistently the ones yelling to cheer on the football team, say pride the loudest, and does everything with great spirit and pride.

Mr. and Mrs. Tiger Band

Also voted on by the student body, this award is given to a male and female student who embodies what it means to be members of the Tiger Band. They take great pride in being in this organization, are well-connected throughout the band, and truly love being in band.

The David Memorial Award

This award is decided on by the Band Director and given to a graduating Senior. The David Memorial Award is given in remembrance of three students, all whose names were David, that had a significant impact to the Tiger Band, cared deeply about the band itself, and were truly committed to the band and its goals. This is one of the highest honors to receive.

John Philip Sousa Award

This award is decided on by the Band Director and given to a graduating Senior. The John Philip Sousa Award is awarded to the most musically gifted individual in the Tiger Band. Someone who consistently shows a drive, love, and passion for music and what it embodies in life. This person also performs their instrument at the highest level and must plan to perform beyond high school.

Parent/Student Contract

I, _____, parent of _____, have read and understand all expectations, requirements, costs and scheduling demands of this program handbook in its entirety. I understand that this program and its handbook have the full support and backing of the entire Springville High School administration team and its school board. I also agree and understand that if I have any questions or issues regarding any aspect of this handbook or of the Springville Band program, I will contact the director of bands, Mr. Aaron Saxon, FIRST, to resolve any and all matters.

I/we understand that I/we are responsible for taking care of all uniform parts, instruments, or equipment entrusted to me/us throughout any part of the school year. If any portion of items entrusted to me/us are misplaced, lost, broken, or need repair due to negligence, I/we are responsible for repairing or replacing the item in its entirety.

I understand that I am expected to give 100% of my effort, talents, and attitude for band. I also understand that I am to give 100% of my time and be committed to make the Springville Band the best it can be and something the school and community will be proud of.

If your commitment is less than 100%, your grade will reflect this. If you come to band with a poor attitude, your grade will be poor. If attendance is low, your grade will be low. If your attitude and lack of commitment hurts the band, its moral, and accomplishments, you will be removed from performances and possibly the band itself. Band is not something to be entered into if it comes in second to your job; your leisure or your social life. Band relies on everyone doing their part and being reliable. Only with everyone doing their part can the band be successful and maintain the high standard of success that the Mighty Band from Tiger Land is known for.

Parent Signed: _____ Student Signed: _____

*****RETURN THIS PAGE, SIGNED, TO THE BAND DIRECTOR*****